



Newsflash #9

CCR Messaging

This is the ninth edition of the CCR Newsflash brought to you by the Continuum of Care Reform Branch. This newsletter provides up-to-date information about CCR implementation, promising innovations, and opportunities. We welcome your suggestions and questions, which may be sent by email to the CCR inbox at ccr@dss.ca.gov.

Please help us ensure that this information is passed on to stakeholders at the local level by widely forwarding this communication to staff, colleagues, care providers, social workers, probation officers, youth and any other interested stakeholders. Consider providing a copy of the newsletter at any meetings that include child welfare stakeholders. In addition, if you were forwarded this newsletter, you may have your name added to the distribution list by emailing the CCR inbox.

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"Becoming an adult was difficult, which can be said by any new adult no matter their background. As a former foster youth I can say that most people do not understand the level of hardship placed on our shoulders months, even years before turning 18. The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) is a great opportunity to help alleviate this large amount of pressure and stress on a foster youth's plate on top of all the other things going on in their life. My experience was of being moved from placement to placement. As a young parent that was not only hard on me but also on my two year old son. I tried to reach out to adults to ask for guidance on becoming an "adult", I asked the right questions, so I was told, but I was not asking the right people. These intermediate foster parents were only worried about how many days left I had in their care. The CCR will help support our foster youth in the homes as well as to show them that their county is behind them- supporting and wanting what's best for them as well. Something most foster youth do not believe is that the social workers or people "running the show" care. This is an amazing opportunity to start showing it more as well as giving our foster youth a better chance at thriving when they become adults, something even non-foster youth need, A CHANCE."

Zoe Larson, AmeriCorps Youth Advocate with CPS.

CCR Agent for Change Dr. Byrd



"Robert is extremely collaborative and engaged which allows him to think ahead and anticipate what is next. With his enthusiasm for this change comes an infectious spirit that we all hold on to."

-Kym Renner, Los Angeles County Deputy Director DFCS

"Robert Byrd is one of the most collaborative partners I know; always ensuring that no agency or representative is left out of the discussion or not invited to the table. He is a pleasure to work with and his wealth of knowledge, smile, sense of humor, insight and passion for making our kids' lives better make partnering with him a delight!"

-Lisa Campbell Motton, Los Angeles County Probation Director

Robert Byrd, Psy.D. is the Mental Health Clinical District Chief for Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Children's Systems of Care, Countywide Services Division.

Dr. Byrd earned his Master of Arts degree at Cal State University Los Angeles and his doctorate at Pepperdine University in 1994. Dr. Byrd has over 20 years clinical experience in working with children and families both as a private practitioner and as a member of several renowned L.A. County-contracted community mental health organizations where, in addition to providing supervision to staff and clinicians in training, he oversaw the training program for psychology interns.

As the lead Clinical District Chief for 25 countywide L.A. County contracted providers, Dr. Byrd provides oversight, consultation and guidance to agencies that deliver a continuum of specialty mental health services in residential, outpatient and school settings.

With the changing landscape in the provision of community mental health services as a result of the Affordable Care Act, Dr. Byrd played a key leadership role at the county and state level in advocating for the successful implementation of quality specialty mental health services for youth and families at risk to ensure their resiliency and recovery.

More recently, Dr. Byrd represented the L.A. County Department of Mental Health as a main contributor to the transformation of mental health services for the child welfare population across California as part of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

From his early days as a 'House Manager' for a group home serving foster youth while he was pursuing his Master's degree, Dr. Byrd has been a strong and consistent advocate of foster children and youth. His unwavering commitment to foster care has demonstrated a critical, thoughtful and purposeful look at the system both at the county and state levels, with the clear intent of guaranteeing access to quality mental health services to those children and youth.

The passage of AB 403 -Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), has allowed Dr. Byrd in his leadership role at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to engage county and state partners as well as other stakeholders in the planning and development of the groundbreaking reform of the probation and child welfare systems of care.

Collaborating with key partners that serve foster children and youth has been the cornerstone of Dr. Byrd's philosophy in his advocacy role. From the inception CCR, he has always been mindful of the value and importance of inter-agency communication and engagement, building on the foundation of the Katie A settlement to ensure youth who require congregate care will be assured trauma-informed intensive specialty mental health services, as well as around the clock care and supervision. In addition, for those not requiring congregate care, Dr. Byrd has successfully partnered with Child Welfare and Probation to ensure that children and youth in community home settings are also guaranteed access to medically-necessary and trauma-informed mental health services.

The Key to Collaboration: CCR Workgroups

Committed stakeholders from across California join state staff to develop the essential elements of CCR.

Here are the highlights of our work:

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) State/County Implementation Team

The CCR State/County Team meets monthly to collaboratively identify emerging challenges and possible barriers to the implementation of CCR. Examples of solutions may include the development of tools, changes in legislation, or technical assistance. The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2017, and attendance is by invitation only. However, past meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the CCR Website at [Continuum of Care Reform](#). Questions can be directed to Tracy.Urban@dss.ca.gov.

CCR Education Workgroup

The Education Workgroup is a sub-workgroup of the CCR State/County Implementation Team and is currently working on a California Department of Social Services (CDSS)/ California Department of Education (CDE) joint letter clarifying Child and Family Team (CFT) and Individualized Education Program (IEP) processes and requirements. Additionally, this workgroup holds discussions regarding how to enable and promote the participation of education representatives in Child Welfare/Probation lead CFT meetings. A meeting was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, and included presentations of several county multidisciplinary team models and a discussion on the challenges posed by youth with complex needs. A subset of this workgroup is forming to discuss the idea of creating CCR Education Toolkit. For more information, contact Ahmed.Nemr@dss.ca.gov.

CCR Stakeholder Implementation Advisory Committee

The next quarterly meeting of the CCR Stakeholder Implementation Advisory Committee will take place on July 18, 2017. The last meeting focused on Performance and Outcome Measures. The activity and discussion provided an opportunity to address the needs of the child/family while developing methodologies to track levels of engagement, family relationships, service and care coordination, cultural sensitivity and trauma-responsiveness.

All Stakeholders are welcome to attend these meetings and can expect:

- Updates regarding CCR implementation
- Educational/informational sessions
- Networking possibilities
- Opportunities to provide recommendations on policy, best practices, and other aspects of CCR

For more information, please contact Loretta.Miller@dss.ca.gov.

Program and Services Implementation

The All County Letter (ACL) regarding changes to respite care (extending respite care for up to 14 days) and STRTP Eligibility and the Interagency Placing Committee (IPC) process are expected to be released in summer 2017.

The CDSS has partnered with Lightbox, a strategic communications team, to find and build innovative ways to recruit quality Resource Families in addition to traditional recruitment methods. The goal is to assist counties in enhancing efforts to promote quality care and partnership with resource families and in achieving permanency for children and families. Regional convenings beginning in summer 2017 will offer counties throughout the state training on recruitment, retention and support of caregivers by nationally known foster care consultant and expert, Denise Goodman.

Treatment Outcome Package (TOP) and Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment Tools

AB 403 calls for the identification of a statewide child welfare assessment process using common domains. Two options were identified by CDSS for consideration. The CANS has a long history in California in a variety of settings. It is often used by FFAs in MH settings, for Wrap Around services, and to some extent by county child welfare. The CDSS additionally sought to test the feasibility of an alternative tool (TOP) that had not been previously used in CA and has been recently adapted via funding from Casey for child welfare purposes in a short pilot in 5 counties Los Angeles, Tuolumne, San Diego, Fresno, and Merced.

Given the varied nature of how each tool is currently being used, a quantitative comparison is difficult, however the CDSS has contracted for the development of a qualitative and user-experience evaluation that will assess the county and stakeholder experience in how each tool informs case management, case planning and CFTs. Harder + Company Community Researchers have been selected to conduct the evaluation of the TOP and CANS assessment tools. They will be conducting interviews, focus groups, and surveys of child welfare staff, youth, and caregivers in the pilot counties. The TOP pilot has been extended through July 31, to allow for the completion of the evaluation. The evaluation will assess county perspectives in whether each tool is seen to provide useful input into Child & Family Services Review (CFSR) outcomes, provider performance, and overall child well-being. The evaluation and decision making process will look at any available data regarding the psychometric validity of the tool.

The determination regarding the selection of a statewide tool will be informed by the evaluation to better understand how each tool might meet county needs. In anticipation of either tool being selected, the CDSS is seeking to establish a plan for statewide training and implementation based on county cohorts that are ready and willing to implement within the coming year.

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

The DHCS has contracted with the CIBHS to offer technical assistance, training, and resources to support the statewide implementation of CCR. Training announcements and materials are posted on the CIBHS website at <http://www.cibhs.org/continuum-care-reform-ccr>.

CCR Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: If an approved relative caregiver wants to become a legal guardian and receive Kin-GAP, do they need to convert to RFA first?

A: A relative caregiver interested in becoming a legal guardian does not need to convert to RFA in the following situation:

- If the relative caregiver was approved, under the relative approval process, that approval meets the requirement that the child be placed in the approved home of a relative. This relative guardianship must be ordered/established and dependency must be dismissed by 12/31/19.

The relative caregiver must convert to RFA in the following situations:

- The relative guardianship has not been ordered/established and/or dependency has not been dismissed by 12/31/19.
- The relative caregiver is interested in providing (or maintaining) care to additional foster children.
- The RFA conversion process for these families must be initiated, if not completed, before 12/31/19 pursuant to ACL 17-16.

CDSS Recent Letter & Information Notice Releases

All County Information Notice:

1-13-17 Best Practices for Youth Who are Missing or Run Away from Foster Care

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/2017-All-County-Information-Notices>

All County Letter:

1-03-17 CCR Trainings

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Letters-Regulations/Letters-and-Notices/All-County-Letters/2015-All-County-Letters>

MHSUDS Information Notice:

17-016 Statewide Criteria for Mental Health Program Approval of Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/2017-MHSUDS-Information-Notices.aspx>

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has posted MHSUDS Information Notice 17-021, Claiming for the Therapeutic Foster Care Service Model in the Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal Claims Processing System. The notice may be accessed through the link here:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/2017-MHSUDS-Information-Notices.aspx>

These letters are available on the County Letters and Notices web page: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Letters-and-Notices>

Level of Care Rates Protocol

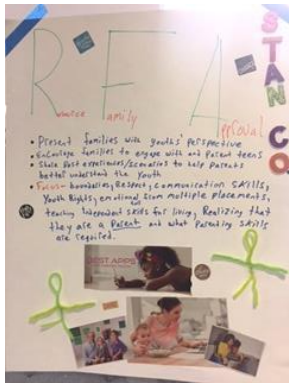
The CDSS in collaboration with UC Davis Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice is currently coordinating the Levels of Care (LOC) Rates Protocol pilot activities and training needs for **social workers and probation officers**. Webinar training was held on May 23, 2017 for piloting counties. This webinar will be available soon on the CCR website. The **following counties are participating in the LOC pilot**:

- **Child Welfare:** Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, Fresno, Glenn, Mariposa, Humboldt.
- **Probation:** Solano, Santa Clara, Riverside.

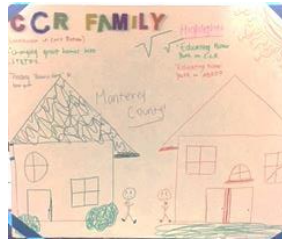
The pilot will take place in June of 2017 and will be conducted in **two** phases:

- **Phase 1:** Inter-rater reliability with the purpose of testing the reliability of the LOC rate tool.
- **Phase 2:** Acceptability and practicality with the purpose of testing the usability of the LOC rate tool.

The LOC Rate Protocol Overview Webinar is available on the [Continuum of Care Reform \(CCR\)](#) website. For more information or questions, please contact CCR@dss.ca.gov.



Youth Engagement Project



The Youth Engagement Project (YEP) is designed to build capacity for youth engagement in Child Welfare Systems through intergenerational partnerships where foster youth are naturally included in policy and practice decisions that affect them and receive the preparation and support needed to share implementable ideas. Current and former foster youth serve as Ambassadors in eight counties throughout California to improve the child welfare system through: state, county, and youth organization partnerships. Two Ambassadors and two leaders from local child welfare agencies or their community partners comprising a chapter. Each chapter develops a project to address topics relevant to their county.

Posters produced at the annual YEP meeting at the CDSS

On April 25, 2017, the YEP held their annual project meeting at the CDSS to report on the local area of system improvement they have been working on. Attendees included YEP Youth Ambassadors, YEP Leadership, county leaders, and state partners.

The following local chapters selected projects related to the implementation of CCR:

- The **Monterey Chapter** held a training using the video produced by the Placer County Chapter. The video was design to train viewers about foster youth rights and to serve as an interactive tool to illicit discussions and create a dialogue. The focus for the Monterey Chapter is the difference between how foster care was before and how it is now with CCR implementation. The goals are to demonstrate how CCR will build families and use the opportunity to educate youth about CCR. The Chapter will also conduct surveys focusing on sibling visitation to make recommendations regarding monitoring sibling visits and transportation.
- The **Los Angeles Chapter's** project is titled "Build Families, Not Facilities". The topic focuses on informing youth about housing options specifically for youth 13 and older (due in large part to the lack of transitional housing and issues related to LGBTQ youth having difficulties with placement resulting in a high proportion of homeless youth). The Chapter will hold a series of presentations for youth and social workers to educate them regarding CCR, youth needs from their perspective, and helping to prepare youth for all possible placement options. The Chapter also plans to offer financial literacy classes. The overarching goals are to include youth, from the beginning, in the policy planning process and to empower youth by teaching them to value themselves.
- The **Stanislaus Chapter** is focusing on the RFA process with the goal of having prolonged placements and establishing lifetime connections. The Chapter would like to see the process move from providing orientations to an actual class for resource family parents. The plan is to add an engagement piece with youth participation.

For more information about YEP: <http://www.cfpic.org/projects/yep>.

The County of San Diego Resource Family Approval Implementation Highlights

By Alice Kennedy, Child Welfare Services Assistant Director

The County of San Diego is extremely excited about the implementation of Resource Family Approval (RFA) and pleased with the outcomes and successes thus far. Since implementation, San Diego has seen a large number of children placed with relatives and non-relative extended family members (NREFMs). Since January 2017, over 600 families have begun the RFA process. Of these families, 220 were assigned to the Emergency Placement process. San Diego has successfully facilitated emergency placements with 103 families, including placements out of county. To date, San Diego has also completed the approval process for 14 Resource Families and 11 of these have met the required 90 day timeframe. San Diego credits this accomplishment first and foremost to having a highly motivated RFA team! San Diego also utilizes a preliminary RFA Assessment Tool during the initial emergency placement which increases approval efficiency when completing the permanency assessment interview process. Lastly, Emergency RFA Workers are flexible with their schedules i.e. working after hours if necessary, they closely monitor and track the family's progress, schedule training, provide community resources and support families as needed.

Leadership and Partnership

Driving the early success of San Diego's implementation of RFA is our motto that *Every Child Grows Up Safe and Nurtured*. Keeping this in mind, strategies in place have embodied the tenets of the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI); particularly, ensuring the child's interest be seen as the cornerstone of established procedures and practices. One of the primary strategies has been engagement of our community stakeholders, caregivers, county staff, community providers and most recently foster family agencies. Prior to implementation, San Diego established an RFA Steering Committee comprised of various levels of Child Welfare Services representatives, community partners, foster parents, probation staff and our community college training partners. The RFA Steering Committee remains intact, and we continue to apply our collective experience and expertise to shape the process of RFA for San Diego.

Staffing

Identifying key staff to launch RFA has been critical to San Diego's ability to ease transitioning of Foster Home Licensing and Relative Home Approval programs to RFA. Many of the current RFA staff are re-purposed from similar programs such as licensing and placement units. Additionally, all staff currently performing Permanency/Psychosocial Assessments were former Adoption Staff with the skill set necessary to complete the psychosocial assessments and assist the Resource Families to be trauma informed.

Contract and Support Services

Recognizing the additional support relative and kinship caregivers may require as they navigate the RFA process, San Diego utilized Foster Parent and Relative Caregiver Recruitment and Retention Support (FPRRS) funds to expand contracts that may support caregivers that receive emergency placement of a child. Embedded within San Diego's Emergency RFA process is the practice of referring caregivers to a kinship support program. San Diego has also woven RFA into QPI trainings for caregivers, in addition to offering one stop shop opportunities for families to complete various requirements to streamline their RFA application process.

Next Steps and Areas for Development

As San Diego continues to grow and learn during RFA implementation, we look forward to ongoing dialogue and partnering around Out of County Approval. The current Out of County Approval Protocol adopted by CWDA requires each Southern County to complete an approval process for families who reside within the area. This requires a great deal of travel for staff and families to complete the RFA process. This new process also creates additional demands on limited resources; therefore, we are working collaboratively to address barriers in approving families who reside outside of San Diego.



Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) 101 Trainings: Supporting Continuum of Care Reform Implementation

From December 2016 through May 2017, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) conducted a series of eight regional trainings on the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) program for group homes and Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). Coordinated by the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS), and in partnership with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), these trainings reached a total of 895 participants from Redding to Riverside. Geared towards group homes, future Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), and FFAs who are interested in becoming SMHS providers, these trainings provided an overview of the core elements of Medi-Cal SMHS; requirements group homes, STRTPs, and FFAs must meet in order to become SMHS providers; an overview of the Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) service model; an overview of the STRTP mental health program approval; and an overview of local county contract process. The three statewide associations—CBHDA, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), and the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) —assisted with outreach and participation in the trainings. In total, approximately 30% of the attendees represented counties, and the remaining 70% represented group homes and FFAs. The DHCS thanks the CDSS, CIBHS, CBHDA, CWDA, CPOC, county panelists, stakeholders, and attendees for supporting and participating in this process. The training materials are posted on the CIBHS website: <http://www.cibhs.org/continuum-care-reform-ccr>.

CCR Regional Ideas and Transformation Exchange (RITE):

The California Department of Social Services, Department of Health Care Services, County Welfare Directors Association of California, County Behavioral Health Directors Association, Chief Probation Officers of California, California Institute for Behavioral Health Services, the Regional Training Academies, and Casey Family Programs are sponsoring the second set of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) meetings in the Northern, Bay, Central, Southern regions, as well as Los Angeles, in order to provide robust technical assistance at the local level. Initially these meeting were limited to state and county staff and now open to broader participation.

Stakeholders are selected by the counties. Contact: Theresa.thurmond@dss.ca.gov.

Bay Area RITE: June 23, 2017

Northern Area RITE: July 26, 2017

Communications from the Integrated Services Unit

Child and Family Team (CFT): CDSS is writing an All County Letter (ACL) that will provide formal step-by-step instructions on how to record CFT's in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS), and will be presented in the context of the policy outlined in ACL-16-84. Anticipated release is summer 2017. For more information, please contact Caroline Caton in the Integrated Services Unit at Caroline.Caton@dss.ca.gov.

CDSS is writing a second CFT Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) letter, which provides answers to FAQ's submitted by counties since the release of ACL No. 16-84 (October 2016). Questions and answers cover a range of CFT topics, including but not limited to, meeting timing and frequency, team roles, team-based case planning, and information sharing and confidentiality. Anticipated release is summer 2017. For more information, please contact Lupe Grimaldi at Lupe.Grimaldi@dss.ca.gov.

Three different brochures are being developed within CDSS to inform youth, parents, and professionals about the CFT process. All three brochures align with CFT requirements and guidelines and will provide guidance specific to the needs of each group. These brochures will be posted to the department's web site and will also be published and disseminated statewide. CDSS is working closely with youth partners at the Youth Engagement Project and California Youth Connection, Parent Partners, and other stakeholders throughout this process. For more information, please contact Catalina Hillestad at Catalina.Hillestad@dss.ca.gov.

In partnership with the Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice at UC Davis, the CDSS is delivering CFT Overview trainings to counties upon county request. These trainings are intended to reach probation, child welfare, and behavioral health staff who already have experience and knowledge of teaming processes. These trainings are county-specific and skills-based and will be scheduled throughout 2017. For more information, please contact Monica Caprio at the Resource Center at macaprio@ucdavis.edu.

Supporting Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families in California

Marjana Jackson, CCR Analyst, CDSS



Dr. Denise Goodman

In efforts to support the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) which is designed out of the understanding that children who must live apart from their biological parents do best when they are cared for in committed nurturing family homes, the CDSS is collaborating with Dr. Denise Goodman, a nationally recognized consultant and child welfare professional to assist counties statewide to increase the capacity of quality resource families while reducing the reliance on congregate care. Dr. Goodman has expertise in foster care and adoption and has worked with a number of states to increase the recruitment of resource families and reducing the use of group home care.

Dr. Goodman will provide training, support and technical assistance in the recruitment, retention and support of resources families to child welfare and probation systems. In addition, Dr. Goodman will bring policy and practice expertise in recruiting and supporting resource families and achieving permanency for the purpose of advising and providing consultative services to the CDSS, Children and Family Services Division (CFSD). The forum for these trainings will be regional convenings held around the state focusing on targeted recruitment, retention and support strategies for resource families. For a select number of counties, Dr. Goodman and her team of expert consultants will provide training on-site to agency staff to develop, refine and implement county specific recruitment, retention and support strategies, by using county placement data to develop a targeted work plan and goals specific to the county's needs. Following the on-site work, Dr. Goodman and her team will continue to be available for consultation and technical assistance. For more information or questions, please contact Marjana.Jackson@dss.ca.gov

The National Resource Center for Diligent Recruitment (NRCDR)

The NRCDR has extended an exciting opportunity for rural counties and tribes in Northern California to take part in a two day training focused on recruitment and retention of resource families, taking into consideration the unique challenges of rural and tribal communities. The NRCDR will work collaboratively with the CDSS, the Northern Regional Training Academy (RTA), counties and tribes to support current efforts that align with the goal of increasing capacity of resource families.

The training will include:

- Training
- Targeted technical assistance
- Collaborative and peer to peer learning
- On-site and regional supports
- Development of strategies for specific populations

The first day of training will consist of peer to peer discussions, identifying rural and tribal challenges within counties and retention and recruitment strategies and goals. The second day will consist of counties creating a plan to implement their strategies and goals. The following counties and tribes have expressed an interest in participating: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba, and the Karuk, Yurok, Pinoleville, Pomo Nation (in Ukiah), and Pit River tribes.



Collaboration in Riverside County Leads to Successful CCR Launch

Tony Cubb, Juvenile Services Division Director, Riverside County Probation

Riverside County has a long history of positive collaboration between probation (RCP), behavioral health (DBH), county office of education (RCOE), and public social services (DPSS). Prior to CCR, these agencies had already established a great working relationship through various committees that addressed issues specifically related to placement. This collaboration also met quarterly with group home providers in an effort to maintain open communication and ensure the providers were aware of the needs of Riverside County youth. These pre-established partnerships helped pave the road to a smooth transition into CCR and the formation of the Riverside County Collaborative System of Care (CSOC) committee. The CSOC has several sub-committees that are tasked with individual projects pertaining to CCR. These sub-committees address topics related to training, data collection, Child Family Teams (CFTs), fiscal issues, placement and overall communication, and report said information to the Executive Steering Committee. Additionally, the quarterly group home provider meetings were changed to monthly meetings in an effort to assist our providers in addressing their concerns related to CCR, specifically with the Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP) requirements.

Early into the implementation of CCR, Chief Probation Officer Hake recognized the potential impact this legislation could have on juvenile operations. Therefore, he authorized the formation of RCP's Juvenile Projects Unit (JPU) and tasked them with the implementation of CCR. This included developing training for RCP staff as well as the bench officers and counsel. The JPU would also be responsible for facilitating all CFT meetings for probation youth and completing Resource Family Approval (RFA) assessments. Developing the JPU allowed RCP to develop internal experts that could collaborate with fellow county agencies to create an implementation plan that worked for both dependent youth as well as delinquent youth. In developing the CCR implementation plan, collaboration was key in determining the most efficient manner to meet CCR mandates. The DPSS had already begun a pilot project for CFT meetings and welcomed members of JPU to observe these meetings. This aided RCP's designated CFT facilitators to observe a CFT meeting before having to facilitate independently. In addition, RCP and DPSS partnered together for the implementation of the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) data collection system for RFAs. This allowed both agencies to provide input to ensure the system fit the needs of both agencies. The biggest collaborative effort came with the development of the RFA process. The RCP and DPSS collaborated to share resources for the pre-approval training utilizing a local college and university, the psychosocial assessment utilizing Foster Family Agencies already contracted with DPSS, and the health screenings through public health clinics.

The ongoing collaboration in Riverside County has led to an extremely successful launch of CCR. Although we still have a great deal of work ahead of us, the foundation for ongoing success is firmly in place.

CCR Resources and Opportunities:

RFA CONVENING

Statewide Implementation Convening Resource Family Approval (RFA)

- June 13th Check-in starts 8:30am, Event is 9:30am—4:30pm
- June 14th 8:30am-3:00pm

Designed for: County representatives from child welfare and probation, Regional Training Academies, California Department of Social Services and CalSWEC

Register at: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ee1x3k93b2529f80&oseq=&c=&ch=>

For more information contact Chris Perry at christine@sharedvisionconsultants.com.

NEW WEBINAR SERIES

Human Rights Campaign Presents:

Strategies for Recruiting LGBTQ Foster & Adoptive Families (60-minutes)

Thursday, June 15th from 11:00-12:00 PT

Co-Presented By: Emily Rawsy, Director of Foster Care and Adoption, Little City Foundation, Chicago, IL

Register at <http://www.hrc.org/resources/all-children-all-families-webinars>

There are millions of LGBTQ adults willing to foster/adopt, yet many child welfare agencies still struggle to recruit from the LGBTQ community. This webinar will offer recruitment tips and cover the essential steps to engaging prospective parents from this untapped pool of adults.

Caring for LGBTQ Youth: An Introduction for Foster & Adoptive Parents (60-minutes)

Thursday, July 27th from 2:00-3:00 PT

Co-Presented By: Adam McCormick, Professor of Social Work at St. Edward's University, Austin, TX & Darryn Green, Child Welfare Training Consultant and Former Foster Youth, San Francisco, CA

Foster and adoptive parents are an extremely diverse community of people with one thing in common: the desire to love, nurture and care for children and youth. Many parents may not realize that LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in foster care and are at higher risks of rejection and harm while in care. This webinar will first explain key terms and concepts that all foster/adoptive parents need to know in order to better understand LGBTQ youth. Research on the importance of providing affirming homes for these youth, as well as concrete tips for how to be affirming will then be presented.

SAMHSA's Early Mental Health Toolkit

https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/toolbox?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=CMHNetwork+Friday+Update+5-19-17&utm_campaign=CMHNetwork+Friday+Update+5-19-17

The CALSWEC Network Hub



The CalSWEC Network Hub <https://www.oercommons.org/hubs/calswec> contains curricula, videos, and presentations all in one convenient location, and that's just the beginning! The Network Hub is designed to be a work in progress, with new learning materials added over time. Most recently added is a collection of Common Core 3.0 online resources.

OTHER RESOURCES

Academy for Professional Excellence San Diego State University School of Social Work Continuum of Care Reform Microlearning: 3-5 minute presentations

<https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/pcwta/continuum-of-care-reform/continuum-care-reform-microlearning/>

CCR microlearning 1: What is CCR?

CCR microlearning 2: Why is Teaming Important in CCR?

CCR microlearning 3: What will CCR Provide to Youth?

CCR microlearning 4: What are Core Services?

CCR microlearning 5: Explaining CCR to Youth

CCR Resources and Opportunities continued

California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare Presents Implementation of California's Continuum of Care Reform: Using the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse to Identify & Support New Core Service Programs

Wednesday June 21st, from 10:00-11:00 PT

Register at: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=avjy79cab&oeidk=a07ee6xb869b4c7b3adwww.cebc4cw.org>

This webinar will provide system leaders and decision-makers with practical information for identifying new CCR core service programs and strategies/resources for effectively implementing these programs. By the conclusion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Effectively utilize the CEBC website to identify and access information on relevant programs for addressing CCR core services.
- Access additional tools and resources for implementing evidence-based practices that address CCR core services.
- Identify best practices and strategies for cross-system collaboration between child welfare and behavioral health systems.

California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) CCR Technical Assistance Presents Understanding Trauma-Informed Care

Interventions for Child Welfare

Thursday, June 15th, from 12:00-1:30 PT

Trauma and Specific Issues for Child

Welfare and Building Strengths

Thursday, June 29th, from 12:00-1:30 PT

Presented by Kristin Dempsey, LMFT, LPCC, is a Senior Associate at CIBHS specializing in workforce development and evidence-based practices. *Successful Continuum of Care implementation requires counties to collaborate across their child welfare and behavioral health agencies. This three-part webinar series (the first training "Why Trauma Informed Care" occurred on May 23rd) includes an overview and focus on the need for using a trauma-informed care focus in working with children in the child welfare system.*

Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7822850791697718275>

For further information, please contact Kelly Bitz: kbitz@cibhs.org

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

The DHCS has contracted with the CIBHS to offer technical assistance, training, and resources to support the statewide implementation of CCR. Training announcements and materials are posted on the CIBHS website at <http://www.cibhs.org/continuum-care-reform-ccr>.

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Committee Meetings

The TFC Implementation Committee continues to meet to discuss the TFC service model and TFC parent qualifications. The committee meets bi-monthly and the next meetings are scheduled for:

- June 20: 1-4 pm
- September 13: 1-5 pm
- December 7: 1-4 pm

CCR COMMUNICATION TOOLS

CCR OVERVIEW:

CDSS has developed a webinar that is pre-recorded and available on the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) website. The webinar provides an overview of CCR and the provisions of AB 403, and the framework for implementation.

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/continuum-care-reform-ccr/abcs-ccr>

CDSS INTERNET WEBPAGE:

This web-page provides a variety of information including the CCR Fact Sheets, links to Assembly Bill 403, and calendar of meetings and presentations. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Continuum-of-Care-Reform>

CCR TOOLKIT:

The toolkit is designed to help navigate various components of the CCR initiative and is available on the CalSWEC website.

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/continuum-care-reform-ccr>

CCR EMAIL BOX:

This e-mail portal is available for stakeholders to ask questions, request information and to be connected with CCR workgroups at ccr@dss.ca.gov.

CCR TOOLS FOR YOUTH:

Tools are available on the CalSWEC website to assist stakeholders with messaging to youth.

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/continuum-care-reform-ccr>

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES INTEGRATED PRACTICE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALLS:

The CDSS and the DHCS host a monthly call that provides open and timely communication between state teams and county staff in providing updates and discussion surrounding CCR planning and implementation, continued implementation of Pathways to Well-Being (Core Practice Model, Intensive Care Coordination, and Intensive Home Based Services), and planning and implementation of Therapeutic Foster Care services. A monthly bulletin of the Integrated Practice Technical Assistance Calls, including discussion points, Q&A, and resources to support counties and their partners in these program areas, is sent out to county and partner staff each month.

Email KatieA@dhcs.ca.gov to subscribe to the TA Call list for alerts, materials, and bulletins.

CCR Updates Continued

Performance and Outcomes

The last quarterly updates for the County Group Home Rates Classification Level (RCL) profiles were sent in April 2017. The profiles provide counties with information on the number of youth placed in group homes and are aggregated by agency, RCL level, age, and ethnicity. New data on the profiles include youth placed in STRTPs as well as youth in placement over a year for all RCL levels (previous reports only included youth in RCLs 12-14). The Provider Performance and Outcomes Executive Committee met on April 20, 2017. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to create the roadmap in the identification of performance measures to develop and ensure transparency. This is not the actual workgroup. The Executive Committee has intentionally been created as a small group of state, county and stakeholder representatives. For more information, please email the CCR Oversight Unit at ccroversight@dss.ca.gov.

Policy

AB 404 (Stone, 2017)

Follow-up legislation is moving through the CA legislature which makes technical changes to the Family Approval due process provisions, the Interagency Placement Committee process, Resource Respite Care, Intensive Services Foster Care and other technical changes. The full text of the bill is available at https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB404

Temporary Shelter Care Facility ILS

Final Interim Licensing Standards for county emergency shelters seeking conversion to Temporary Shelter Care Facility licensure were released May, 31, 2017. Eligible facilities will provide transition plans to the CDSS no later than July 14, 2017.

The CCR Policy Unit continues to work closely with Community Care Licensing Division, Regional Offices and Providers regarding the Program Statement Review Process for both FFAs and STRTPs. FFA revisions continue to come in from providers for RFA approval. CCR has received 24 STRTPs program statements, with 17 having been reviewed. There have been several meetings to discuss STRTP programs, feedback on program issues and TA to providers. To date, two facilities have been licensed as STRTPs and more will come shortly.

Please visit <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Continuum-of-Care-Reform> for more information. If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to ccr@dss.ca.gov and/or the CCL Manager Marisa.Sanchez@dss.ca.gov.